

This is to be a series of short articles summarising some of the findings that surprised or delighted me as I explore Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 (called - LR 2 now as we've become good friends)

I will often make dogmatic assertions without the space to qualify them - eg the next 3 paragraphs;

- 1.) Lightroom has been designed from the ground up for Digital Images.
- 2.) There is absolutely no point in not shooting RAW and even less point in shooting RAW and .jpg.
- 3.) LR2 has half its features aimed at photographers coping with thousands or tens of thousands of images and to use this cataloguing dynamo properly requires the user to forget about folders, subfolders and the filing system that has worked for you (or not !) up till the time you installed LR.

Mostly I won't be spending too much time on this half of LR as the image enhancement abilities are much more fun. There are however a few technical bits that are useful to know:

#### *File Locations in Windows Vista-*

LR Application default location is Program Files/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 folder.

Preferences. - agprefs file, is found in

*Users/[username]/AppData/Roaming/Adobe/Lightroom/Preferences folder.*

Database file - Lightroom 2 Catalog.lrcat, is located in : *Users/[username]/Pictures/Lightroom folder.*

Previews are located in various folders in *Documents and Settings/[username]/My*

*Documents/My Pictures/Lightroom/Lightroom 2 Catalog Previews.lrcat folder.*

(Previews are organised and coded for the application to read, not for users.)

#### *MAC*

The LR application is the Adobe Lightroom 2.app file, located in the Applications folder.

The preference file is the com.adobe.Lightroom2.plist file, located in the [username]/Library/Preferences folder.

The following Photoshop Lightroom database files are located in the [username]/Pictures/Lightroom folder:

- \* Lightroom 2 Catalog.lrcat (the catalog itself)

- \* Lightroom 2 Catalog.lrcat.lock (this file prevents you from overwriting data)

- \* Lightroom 2 Catalog Previews.lrcat (the file that holds the preview data assigned to your photos)

ALMOST everything that Photoshop can do is possible in LR 2, usually in ways both more intuitive automated but finding the controls for the level of this automation is sometimes not obvious and is the subject of much of these notes.

( A magazine I read has an author who after telling readers something that seems blindingly obvious - "don't put your finger in front of the welding torch"- then adds "Don't ask me how I know ! "

Well, many of the things that I have found in LR 2 fall into this category. They may be obvious to you but I found them out by dumb luck or pain and I share them with the hope that you needn't suffer as much.

I've used enough space for now but I will get in this essential tip:

**Use the keyboard in preference to the mouse.**

Keystrokes are appreciably faster and get you places that are much more difficult to get to with a mouse.

Try pressing **R** . That goes rapidly to CROP. BUT now Press **O** several times. Adobe has built in composition rules. The Crop lines illustrate the classic placing of the major centers of interest.

Again, try the following - I'll expand on and explain these next time (if Carolyn doesn't fire me !)

In LIB - / (Backslash), T, Shft+Tab, Cntl+Tab, F5,F6,Tab and D to go to Develop module

In Dev - / (Backslash), T ( look carefully) and Use E to quickly return to Loupe mode in LIB or G for a rapid return to Grid mode in Lib.